

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1-3, 13, 14, 16, and 23-26 have been amended. The amended claims are supported by the specification. No new matter has been added in the amended claims.

Claims 1-5, 9, 12-13, 15-17, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,650,902 to Richton. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19 and 20 are allowable as the examiner indicated.

Claims 24-26 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 26. Accordingly, claims 24-28 should be in a condition for allowance as the examiner indicated.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "storing an identifier for a mobile unit associated with a mobile subscriber, a location of said mobile unit being of interest to a system user other than said mobile subscriber, monitoring said location of said mobile unit, using said location-based services application and said identifier of said mobile unit, to identify a crossing of said service zone boundary by said mobile unit, and transmitting service information to said system user regarding said mobile unit in response to said crossing of said service zone boundary by said mobile unit."

As amended, claim 1 provides a method for a system user other than a mobile subscriber to monitor a location of a mobile unit associated with the mobile subscriber and to receive service information regarding the mobile unit in response to a boundary crossing by the mobile unit. For example, embodiments of the present invention enable a fleet manager, "to be notified if a vehicle enters a proscribed area (e.g., crosses into a prohibited country) or exits a permitted area." (Specification at page 4, lines 19-21).

Richton discusses a method by which the location of a mobile unit carried by a traveler is used to initiate the sending of location-specific information to the travelers. (Richton at Abstract). The "geographically based criteria" used by the method are selected "at the direction of the user." (Richton at col. 2, lines 50-55). In Richton, "the user must specify the geographic conditions under which the service will be invoked." (Richton at col. 8, lines 35-37).

Therefore, Richton appears to utilize a user-centric methodology in which the system is customized "to meet the user's specific desires and preferences." (Richton at col. 3, lines 34-35). In contrast, embodiments of the present invention provide a method in which a system user other than the mobile subscriber can monitor the location of the mobile unit of interest to identify a crossing of the service zone boundary. For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5, 9, 12-13, 15-17, and 21, which depend from claim 1, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite "storing an identifier for a mobile unit associated with a mobile subscriber, a location of said mobile unit being of interest to a system user other than said mobile subscriber, monitoring said location of said mobile unit, using said location-based services application and said identifier of said mobile unit, identifying a crossing of said service zone boundary using a mathematical analysis, and transmitting service information to said system user regarding said mobile unit in response to said crossing of said service zone boundary." As discussed in relation to claim 1, Richton does not teach or suggest each and every element of amended claim 23. For at least these reasons, among others, claim 23 is patently distinct from Richton and in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8, 10, 14, 18, and 22 depend from claim 1 and are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations they recite. Moreover, the cited references do not make up for the deficiencies found in Richton.

For example, Hoshen (U.S. patent number 5,461,390) does not teach or suggest identifying "a crossing of said service zone boundary by said mobile unit" as recited by amended claim 1. Rather, Hoshen utilizes convention methods of either using the locator device 22 to compare "the location coordinates sent from the locator device (attached to a subject) with approved coordinates stored in the database record" or performing a comparison "between the position of the stalker 24 and victim 28 to determine if stalker 24 is closer than permitted." (Hoshen at col. 3, line 65 - col. 4, line 2 and col 4, lines 38-40).

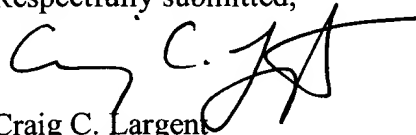
Hoshen fails to provide the benefits available through embodiments of the present invention, for example, generating service information "based on identification of a boundary crossing or other related change in status rather than in direct response to a service request from a system user or based on a periodic or occasional polling process." (Specification at page 4, lines 11-16). For at least these reasons, among others, the pending claims are in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Craig C. Largent
Reg. No. 56,400

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
MDC:CCL:ka
60422420 v1